

Tom Bennett Art and Environmental Science Contest 2008

## **Getting Along in the Chaparral**

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### **Chaparral Glossary**

Adaptations – change in an organism that makes it better to survive in the conditions of its environment

Annual – (of plants) completing the life cycle in one growing year

Arachnid – an arthropod (like spider, tick, or scorpion) that has 2 divided body parts, 4 pairs of legs, and no antennae

Bark – the outer area of a tree that is often rough to the touch

Bevy – a large group

Biological diversity - variety in an environment as indicated by numbers of different species of plants and animals

California Floristic Province – a zone that has a Mediterranean climate and has a large number of plant species found only in this region

Canopy – the uppermost spreading layer of a forest

Chaparral – a Mediterranean climate habitat consisting of shrubs and low bushes which are less than 20 feet in height

Climate – the pattern of specific weather conditions in a given region

Commensalism – a relationship between two kinds of organisms in which one obtains a benefit from the other without damaging or benefiting it

Continent – a large landmass that is separated by water or mountains (like North America, Asia, and Australia)

Dormancy – in a state of rest or inactivity

Ecosystem – a system of living things interacting with their environment especially under natural conditions

Endangered – threatened with extinction

Endemic – an organism that grows specifically or is only found in a specific region or locality

Evergreen – a plant that has functional green leaves through out the changing seasons

Fire suppression – the act of putting out fires in order for people to save their homes and communities

Floristic Province – a geographic area that has the same kind of plants growing around the entire region

Forest – a large area that has trees and underbrush growing in abundance

Gall – an abnormal growth on a plant that is caused by an insect

Germinate – to cause to grow

Habitat – the place where a living thing naturally lives and grows, finding everything it needs to survive

Incubate – to sit on and hatch eggs

Landscape – land that can be seen in one place

Larvae – a young insect that has no wings and is worm like ex. Caterpillar; the larvae stage of the insect lifestyle

Moisture – a small amount of water or other liquid that causes an area to become slightly wet

Mutualism – a relationship between two different kinds of organisms that benefits both

Organism – an individual living thing that carries on the activities of life by means of parts which have separate functions but are dependent on each other

Parasite – a living organism that lives on or in another living organism

Parasitism – a relationship between two different kinds of organisms in which one organism obtains benefits from the other while causing harm to it

Perennial – (of plants) having a life cycle lasting more than two years

Plant dormancy – a period of time when plants do not grow and during this time plants are able to repair themselves in order to survive winters

Pollinate – to place pollen on the stigma of a plant in order to make it produce a fruiting body

Predator – an animal that lives by capturing and feeding on other animals

Prey – an animal hunted and killed for food by another animal

Range – the total area in which a plant or animal may be seen; applies to individual plants and animals as well as populations

Ripen – to become fully grown

Scavenger – an animal that helps to clean up the environment by feeding on dead plants and animals

Shrub – a woody plant that has many stems going out of it and is smaller than a tree

Slithering – to slide across a surface

Species – a category of living things of the same kind that resemble one another and are able to reproduce among themselves

Succession – changes to an environment in which one group of plants or animals is replaced by a different group

Symbiont – one of a pair of organisms living in a symbiotic relationship

Symbiosis – the relationship of two different kinds of organisms living in an interrelated relationship in their habitat

Territory- an area defended by an animal against members of its own species

Underbrush – shrubs and small trees that grow around larger trees

Urban-wildlands interface – the area where the chaparral and urban development meet (like homes)

Veranda – an open porch with a roof on top